

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 11031 190806Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 /078 W

-----110948 190842Z /20

R 190715Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 11031

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: MNLF AND PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES AGREED TO JOINT  
OPERATIONS

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT PHILIPPINE MARED FORCES AND MNLF  
AGREED JULY 15 TO CONDUCT JOINT OPERATIONS AGAINST GROUPS OF  
BANDIDTS AND PIRATES WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN ENDEMIC IN  
SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. THE AGREEMENT, REACHED BY ARMED FORCES  
AND MNLF REPRESENTATIVES IN MANILA, ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH MOST  
PRESSING CURRENT CEASEFIRE PROBLEM. PIRACY AND BANDITRY,  
PROFESSIONS WITH LONG IF NOT HONORABLY HISTORIES IN THE SOUTHERN  
PHILIPPINES, HAVE AGAIN BECOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR LAW ABIDING  
RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES PROVINCES. EXTRA-LEGAL  
ACTIVITIES OF THESE GROUPS ALSO POSE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS  
PROBLEM FOR THE CEASEFIRE SINCE MANY MILITARY OFFICERS BELIEVE  
THAT MNLF IS USING BANDITRY AS COVER FOR OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS.

2. DURING RECENT VISIT OF CHARGE TO PHILIPPINE ARMED  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 11031 190806Z

FORCES SOUTHERN COMMAND (SEPTEL), DEPUTY COMMANDER  
SOUTHCOM STATED HE HAD INVITED MNLF TO PARTICIPATE IN  
GOVERNMENT DRIVE AGAINST BANDITS BUT THAT MNLF HAD REFUSED  
OFFER. AT THAT TIME GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MOVE ALONE  
AGAINST BANDITS. MILITARY ADMITTED DIFFICULTY OF  
DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN REAL BANDITS AND MNLF, BUT WERE  
INTENT ON PROCEEEDING DESPITE RISKS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

3. COMMENT: SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND MNLF SHOULD LESSEN THE PROBABILITY OF INCIDENTS ARISING OUT OF IDENTITY ERRORS. IF JOINT OPERATIONS DO SUCCED, THEY COULD HELP ENTRENCH THE CEASEFIRE EVEN FUTHER. THE RISKS, HOWEVER, OF BRINGING TOGETHER TWO GROUPS OF HEAVILY ARMED OPPONENTS ARE VERY REAL. UNLESS BOTH SIDES PROCEED WITH CAUTION THEY MAY CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN THEY CAN SOLVE.  
STULL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMED FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANILA11031  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770268-0071  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770743/aaaab1bb.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a5699a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1819968  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MNLF AND PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES AGREED TO JOINT OPERATIONS  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PINS, RP, MNLF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a5699a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009